

American NEWS & VIEWS

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Transcript: President Bush Announces New Domestic, International AIDS Initiatives

Declares Vietnam will be 15th focus nation for emergency relief

President Bush announced new domestic and international initiatives in the campaign against HIV/AIDS June 23.

Speaking at the Greater Exodus Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bush urged the American public to bear compassion towards those afflicted with the disease, and emphasized the U.S. responsibility to help persons with the virus both at home and abroad.

"I don't think there's any doubt of where we have to go," Bush said. "We're going to provide better care and treatment to ease the suffering of the sick. We will strengthen our prevention efforts. And through focused research, we will create a vaccine and find a cure. There's no doubt in my mind."

The President outlined new programs and funding commitments to pursue each of those objectives in the upcoming budget year.

He also announced that Vietnam will become the newest addition to the list of 14 previously identified nations that are receiving special emergency relief to address the high level of HIV infection in their populations. These nations, home to about half of the world's total number of people with the virus, are the focus nations for the \$15 billion, five-year emergency plan for AIDS relief. In the first few operational months, \$350 million already has been distributed to locally operated programs in the focus countries.

Following is the transcript of Bush's remarks:

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON COMPASSION AND HIV/AIDS

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for having me. It's great to be back in this compassionate city. I think it's called the City of Brotherly Love, and that's what we're here to talk about today, is brotherly love.

First I want to thank my friend, Herb Lusk, for inviting me back to the Greater Exodus Baptist Church. I've been here before, the 4th of July. And I don't remember this building being here. At the time I said, Herb is a social entrepreneur who can make things happen. We're in this beautiful building because he made things happen. He believes, as I do, in the power of faith to touch every heart and to change every life.

That's kind of the motto or the philosophy of the programs that emanate from this church. He takes his admonition to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself seriously. And so do the people who attend this church.

I want to remind you that not only is there great spirituality here, but this is a church that trains people coming off welfare rolls to find work. This is a church which helps feed the hungry, and finds shelter for the homeless. A church that helps families to stay together. This is a church that is giving generously of time and money. Herb Lusk is a general in the army of compassion.

And the other thing this church is doing is sending donations to fight AIDS around the world. I'm here to thank the church for doing that. I want to thank all the churches in the Greater Philadelphia area for the Stand for Africa Campaign. This is a great example of how people of faith can become involved in saving lives. It's a fine example for every American, faith or no faith.

HIV/AIDS, you see, is a challenge, it's a direct challenge to the compassion of our country, and to the welfare of not only our nation, but nations all across the globe. It's really one of the great challenges of our time. This disease leaves suffering and orphans and fear wherever it reaches.

Every man and woman and child who suffers from this addiction, from the streets of Philly to the villages of Africa, is a child of God who deserves our love and our help. And that's what I'm here to talk about today. We're determined to provide that help. We're committed to help those at home and help those abroad. To whom much has been given, much is demanded.

I want to thank Tommy Thompson for being here. He's one of the ones I demand that he do his job to make sure that we do the best we can in America to help those who hurt. And Tommy is the head of the Department of Health and Human Services. He's doing a fabulous job. I want to thank you for coming. His job is to work with the issue at home, as well as abroad. But to help him make sure the AIDS initiative, our international AIDS initiative works well, I went into the private sector and found somebody who had run a complex organization before. You see, we're moving a lot of money -- and I'm about to describe it to you here in a minute -- but I want to make sure the money is actually spent wisely. See, we ought not to be measured on how much money we move, we ought to be measured on how many lives we save.

So, therefore, I needed somebody who is a manager, somebody who could organize, somebody who could find that which works and make sure it continues to work well,

and that which doesn't work, replace it with something that does. Somebody who is open-minded and focused on the results. And that is Ambassador Randy Tobias. I'm proud you're here, Randy. Thanks for coming.

And working with Tobias is my friend, Dr. Joe O'Neill. I like to call him the architect of the global AIDS initiative. Dr. Joe has been very much involved with HIV/AIDS for a long period of time. He's a pioneer in many ways, a deeply compassionate person and a man I'm proud to call friend. Thank you for coming, Joe. I'm glad you're here.

We've got a lot of other important people here. We've got members of Congress -- and since Congress is in session, it's probably in my interest to introduce the congressmen. Congressman Curt Weldon and Congressman Jim Greenwood are with us today, two really fine members. Senator Specter flew on the airplane, he had to get back for some votes, but he sent his better half -- and I emphasize "better half." I want to thank Mrs. Specter for coming today. City Councilman Jack Kelly, is here, as well.

Members from the church are here. We've got bishops from different religions, and I am honored you are here. We've got people who have heard the call and who want to serve, are here. We've got a volunteer who is here, a person named Pat McDonough. I met her at the airport. There she is. Pat, thank you for coming. She is a volunteer at Silloom. I'll be talking about Silloom pretty soon. It's a spiritually-based program designed to help save lives. You'll hear some stories about this locally-based grassroots organization, which depends upon people such as Pat to show up and volunteer.

And so the reason I bring up Pat -- first of all, what she does, she's a massage therapist for people affected by HIV/AIDS. She uses her hands to help reflect her heart and make people more comfortable in their pain. You know, when you've got somebody who loves somebody helping them through their pain, the effect is not only physical, it can be spiritual, as well. And I want to thank Pat for volunteering.

My call to people in Philadelphia who want to love their neighbor is to find programs such as Silloom, or the programs in Herb's church, and say, I want to help. To me, it's patriotic to love a neighbor like you'd like to loved yourself.

I appreciate the example, Pat, that you have set. And I'm honored you are here, and thank you for coming.

Every day in our world, 8,000 lives are lost to the AIDS pandemic -- 8,000 people a day. We are fighting one of the

great tragedies of human history. And it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that this is a great tragedy. See, when you see a great tragedy, people will respond. This isn't a minor tragedy. It's just not a blip in history. It is a great tragedy. That's how I view it. That's how others here view it, as well.

Tens of millions of people are living with HIV virus. More than two million of them are children under the age of 15. It's really difficult to think about that kind of injustice, isn't it, about despair coming so early to boys and girls who are so young. That's the problem we face. That's a problem we'll deal with. AIDS is an individual tragedy for all who suffer, and a public health catastrophe that threatens the future of many nations.

In some African countries, the percentage of adults infected with HIV is as high as one-third. In our own country, nearly a million of our fellow Americans have the virus, and 40,000 more contract it each year.

Yet, there are reasons to be encouraged and hopeful and optimistic in the fight against AIDS. HIV is no longer a hopeless death sentence, and that's a positive development. New drugs and new treatments are dramatically extending and improving lives. The scientists and researchers who develop these drugs are some of the great humanitarian heroes of our time, and we thank them for their work, and we will fund their work.

Their work has made broader treatment, even in the poorest of countries, a realistic hope. And proven methods of prevention are showing the spread of this disease -- are slowing the spread of this disease in some parts of the world. In other words, prevention -- we're beginning to understand how to prevent the disease from spreading. HIV/AIDS can be beaten. We're committed to ending the plague. America is committed to continue to leading the world in ending the plague.

We're fully engaged in this global fight against AIDS -- I mean fully engaged. Our nation took the lead in sounding the global fund. We remain the world's largest contributor to the fund. We're setting the example for others to follow. That's what a leader does. America leads so that others will follow.

To expand these efforts, a year and a half ago I announced the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. That's the plan that Dr. O'Neill is the architect of. I called for \$15 billion over five years to combat the spread of HIV in other countries, and to provide treatment and care to 10 million people affected by HIV. Earlier this year, Congress provided \$2.4 billion for my emergency plan -- in other words, they're beginning to

fund the plan. And I thank them for that. I want to thank the members of Congress who are here.

I call upon Congress to make sure they fully fund the plan. The first portion, \$350 million, began reaching people in need six weeks ago -- only six weeks ago, I might add. That is faster than any major international anti-AIDS effort has ever been implemented. Because our help cannot get there fast enough, there is a pandemic on the continent. We need to move quickly.

We've identified 14 nations in Africa and the Caribbean in need of urgent help. The global fund and bilateral funding really means we're reaching all around the world. We're focused on 14 nations where the pandemic is most acute. Let's go where the problems are the toughest, I said. Let's bring America to where people suffer the most. We want to tackle the toughest problems in this country, not the easiest ones. We'll leave the easier ones for other people.

In these countries, the money is funding clinics, buying drugs, paying for treatments, supporting faith-based groups, training health care workers. The funds are making a difference already. In just a few months, the Reach Out clinic in Uganda -- one of these little centers of heroism in the midst of disease -- in Uganda more than doubled the number of patients it is treating with life-extending antiretroviral drugs. In other words, we're beginning to get it out. We're beginning to -- we're beginning to see results. Suddenly, there's new hope among those who seek help and those who give it.

See, when they get the antiretroviral drug, there's a Lazarus effect and people, all of a sudden, say, I have hope. And when someone has hope, that spreads to other people. There's nothing better than a hopeful society in dealing with the pandemic. A hopeful society means you think you can win. A non-hopeful society says, I surrender. America is not going to surrender to the pandemic.

One of the workers in the clinic describes it this way: "We are experiencing something very beautiful. Our clients will have a chance to continue to live." I want to thank you all for your work.

Jennifer Birungi is a widow who lives in Uganda's capital, Kampala. She has two children. She has HIV, and earlier this year she was diagnosed with meningitis. It's a terrible disease under any circumstance. But that one is especially devastating for people with HIV. The doctors will tell you the combination of HIV and meningitis is deadly. Without treatment, her life expectancy would have been six days. Because America acted, because the American people acted,

she's getting treatment, and the extra years she now hopes for will mean everything to her children.

For too long, anti-AIDS programs offered too little treatment for those who had already contracted the disease. And so today we're helping other nations to buy drugs -- this is one of the focuses of Randy and Joe -- so that we can extend lives. Because, you see, every life matters to the Author of life, and so they matter to us.

Today, I announce a second round of funding in the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. More than \$500 million will be soon on its way. Congress needs to release the money. These grants will provide more antiretroviral treatments and promote prevention efforts, care for children who lost their parents to AIDS -- there's a lot of orphans around the continent of Africa. You've got 14- and 15-year-old kids raising their brothers and sisters. So part of the effort is to provide love and hope for these brave young kids who have been handed an incredibly tough burden, an awesome burden.

We want to help build and equip hospitals and clinics. In other words, we want the infrastructure to be there. Part of the money goes to make sure there's an infrastructure. I mean, we really don't care here in America if it takes a bicycle or a moped to get antiretrovirals out of these big cities, but that's what we're going to do. And part of the challenge we face is to help poor countries have the capacity to absorb the drugs and compassion of America. That's one of our challenges.

I want to thank the Congress, again, and the taxpayer, for their generosity. This is a vital initiative. Let's make sure the resources keep coming on a timely basis.

Today, I'm also announcing that we're adding Vietnam to the emergency plan. In other words, we have 14 countries; we're adding a 15th country. Now, after a long analysis by our staff, we believe that Vietnam deserves this special help. We're putting a history of bitterness behind us with Vietnam. The reason why the decision was made is because the nation has experienced a rapid rise in HIV infections especially among the young.

And Vietnam is cooperative and wants help. In other words, they recognize they have a problem -- which, by the way, is an important part of battling the pandemic. People have got to say, I've got a problem, come and help us. It's hard in certain countries that people say, we don't have a problem, you know, in denial. In the meantime, people are dying. Part of diplomacy, by the way, good diplomacy says to leaders, I think you need to listen to the truth, and the truth will set you free and help people survive.

And so, therefore, we're sending up to the Congress a notification that Vietnam is now going to receive -- be a part of the 15 -- now 15 nation focus, and want the Vietnamese to hear, together we'll fight the disease. You've got a friend in America.

We will continue to confront the disease abroad, and we will confront it here at home, as well. I want our fellow citizens to understand that we can -- we can work in Africa, and we can work in America at the same time. We've got plenty of capacity. These efforts are not mutually exclusive, they're complementary, they're complementary.

The number of women diagnosed with AIDS has risen in America. That is a fact. For African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44, the prime of life, AIDS is the second leading cause of death. We've got to deal with it here at home, as well.

AIDS is finding more victims beyond our cities. AIDS victims now are in our suburbs and in the rural heartland. Neither individuals, nor society, nor government can afford to be complacent, and we will not relent against the battle of AIDS here in America. My latest budget commits more than \$17 billion to prevent and treat AIDS in America, and to find a cure. This is a 27-percent increase from the budgets of 2001.

It's one thing to spend money, it's another thing to spend it wisely. And so today I want to talk about a three-part strategy to make sure that we're effective here at home. First, we will provide better care and treatment to those suffering from HIV and AIDS, better treatment and care. We will act as quickly as possible to get lifesaving drugs to people with the greatest need.

In 10 states, hundreds of AIDS patients are waiting for access to life-extending treatments. In other words, there's long lines. Some of these people have been waiting for months. That seems like a problem that we can deal with, Tommy. And we're prepared to help deal with it. So we're going to provide \$20 million, effective today, to extend lifesaving drugs, the purpose of which is to deliver lifesaving drugs to the men and women who are waiting. In other words, there shouldn't be lines here. And we're going to deal with the lines.

We will also get help to those who need it by making sure that the federal programs are focused on saving lives. Our nation's most important AIDS legislation, the Ryan White Care Act, has done a lot of good, a lot of good over the years, by funding groups that provide care and services to AIDS patients. Yet the law was written more than a decade ago, when those with AIDS had little hope. So the law is

concerned largely with caring for the sick and dying, instead of helping AIDS patients to lead longer and healthier lives. In other words, there's a different focus now because things have changed, technology has changed, medicines are changing how people can live with AIDS.

When the Ryan White Care Act is reauthorized next year, I propose to make it stronger and more effective by focusing resources on life-extending care, such as antiretroviral drugs and doctor visits and lab tests. This kind of care was just a dream 20 years ago. It is a reality today. And we will work with Congress to make sure that as many patients as possible are receiving the modern care they deserve.

We need to change the way that money under the Ryan White Care Act is provided to care-givers and states and communities. Today, funding decisions are made according to a rigid geographical formula that takes too little account of the most urgent needs. In other words, you can't set priorities -- that's what that means.

In some areas of the countries, there are more severe cases. There are particular problems among minority women. There are fewer resources to handle its case load. In those cases, Tommy Thompson, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, should have the flexibility to cut through the red tape and get the money quickly to where it is needed. That's what we're going to propose to the Congress. Let us set priorities and make sure the resources fund those priorities. That makes sense, with taxpayers' money, it seems like to me. We must hold accountable organizations that receive federal help to fight AIDS by keeping track of their progress. People shouldn't fear that. They ought to -- say, are you doing the job? Are lives being saved? Are your lines too long? If they are, why? Are you getting out the word? Are you doing what we asked? You see, we're interested in the people's lives, not the bureaucratic process.

We must be sure that any organization that is effective in AIDS is eligible for federal help, by the way -- effective in fighting AIDS is eligible for help. And that includes faith-based groups. The faith-based groups are making a huge difference on the continent of Africa; they need to be making a huge difference here at home, as well.

For many AIDS patients, especially those who live in low-income areas or rural areas, a local church program or community health center is their only source for treatment and support. And to be frank about it, the church is the only place many people feel comfortable going to share their burdens. Sometimes, they don't feel so comfortable sharing their burdens in a church. And when that's the case, the church needs to make sure people do feel comfortable

in sharing the burden. The way I like to put it is, faith-based programs deserve the support of our government when they're effective, not to be discriminated against. People shouldn't fear the fact if there's a cross on the wall and an AIDS program in that building. We ought to welcome that. We ought not to fear the Star of David on a wall and an AIDS program ensconced in the building. We ought to welcome it, because the motivation by the people of faith is a motivation to help heal the hurt.

The second part of a domestic strategy to fight AIDS is prevention. I think it's really important for us to focus on prevention. We can learn from the experiences of other countries when it comes to a good program to prevent the spread of AIDS, like the nation of Uganda. They've started what they call the A-B-C approach to prevention of this deadly disease. That stands for: Abstain, be faithful in marriage, and, when appropriate, use condoms. That's what A-B-C stands for. And it's working. I like to call it a practical, balanced and moral message. I say it's working because Uganda has cut its AIDS infection rate to 5 percent over 10 years. Prevention works.

I think our country needs a practical, effective, moral message. In addition to other kinds of prevention, we need to tell our children that abstinence is the only certain way to avoid contacting HIV. It works every time. Children have a way of living up or down to our expectations. If we want them to lead healthy and responsible lives, we must ask them to lead healthy and responsible lives.

This message, I know, is the primary duty of moms and dads. It's not the primary duty of the government. I fully recognize that. However, government can help. That's why I have proposed to double federal funding for programs that help local groups spread the most effective way to prevent the spread of AIDS, which is to teach children to make the right choices in life.

Our national prevention efforts also depend on HIV testing as a routine part of health care. That makes sense to me, it should to you. I mean, how can you solve a problem until you diagnose the problem. Roughly, a quarter of the people with HIV do not know they have it. That makes it hard to treat people who don't know they have it. They aren't getting the treatment, of course, and they're unknowingly spreading the majority of new infections.

Testing now is easier than ever. My administration is encouraging health care providers to test for HIV routinely, to save lives, that's why we're doing that. Across America, June 27th is National HIV Testing Day. For the sake of their health and for the sake of the health of others, I urge all Americans at risk to get the test. You'll be -- by getting the

test, you'll be making a significant contribution to making sure that we arrest the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Another way to prevent the spread of AIDS is to fight drug addiction. This is one more aspect -- in other words, the spread of AIDS through sharing needles is one more aspect of the terrible grief and destruction that drug abuse causes across America. I proposed to Congress increased funding for substance abuse treatment by \$150 million next year. The reason I did so is because we've got an issue in America that we've got to deal with straight up. And I want to make sure that all treatment providers can utilize this money.

Listen, sometimes programs work, kind of the clinical approach works to help people kick drugs and alcohol. But a lot of times it requires a change of heart. If you change your heart, you can change your habits. If you change your heart, you change your life. And that's why it's important to make sure the faith community can access federal money to heal the hurt that drug addiction causes.

All these measures are important and will allow more people with AIDS to live longer and better lives. Yet, we must, and will, beat this disease once and for all. So the third element of our strategy to fight AIDS in America and around the world is to intensify the search for a vaccine and for a cure.

Just two weeks ago, at the G8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia, America joined with Japan and Germany and Great Britain and France and other allies to establish the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. What that means is we're going to make a major commitment by the world's best scientists to defeat HIV/AIDS.

By the way, we've got some great scientists here in our own country. At the NIH, we've got some great scientists who have dedicated a lifetime to finding the vaccine and a cure. It makes sense to have a collaborative effort with great scientists from all over the globe. This is a global problem. So we need to work together and share information.

As part of the effort, the United States will establish a new HIV Vaccine Research and Development Center. I asked the question to Tommy whether Dr. Fauci approved of this. He's -- he's one of the leaders in the world of developing the cure. He said, he's strongly in favor. I said, if Fauci is for it, I'm for it. The guy knows what he's doing. He's dedicated a lifetime, as has other scientists here in America, to finding the cure.

As we find the cure, it's very important for Congress to allow for the acceleration of new vaccines by not allowing frivolous and junk lawsuits to stand in the way of progress.

It's very important that those who are developing vaccines in the private sector not be harassed and/or stopped by these junk lawsuits. I mean, we've got an emergency that we must deal with. And therefore, the faster a vaccine can be developed and get to market, the more lives will be saved.

I think the road ahead is clear. I don't think there's any doubt of where we have to go. We're going to provide better care and treatment to ease the suffering of the sick. We will strengthen our prevention efforts. And through focused research, we will create a vaccine and find a cure. There's no doubt in my mind.

Around the world, AIDS remains a source of great suffering. It's important for our fellow countrymen to remember. And we have an obligation to work to relieve the suffering, and we will.

But there's great hope and courage, and that's what really should sustain our fellow citizens, to hear the stories of hope and courage. This morning, I met a very brave, smart, capable woman from Philadelphia. She learned 13 years ago that she was HIV-positive. Doctors gave her two years to live. She described to us what it was like to be a mom of two, and have a doctor say, you've got two years to live.

She felt lost, and then was found at Silloam Ministries, the Director of which is here, Jim Sheehan. I'm proud you're here. Thanks for coming. He runs this program which is what he would describe as a spiritually-based program, a program to help elevate the spirit, to make sure people who are despondent and hopeless recognize there is a strong spirit inside them, and then nurture that spirit.

It's what sustained this brave soul who was told, you've only got two years to live. In other words, she described what it was like to be in a spiritually-based program, how uplifting it was. Today, she's working for her bachelor's degree. What she shared with us is that she found there to be a dearth of counselors, those people -- there weren't enough loving souls willing to help somebody else realize that they've got a hopeful future. So that's why she's going back to school. It's an amazing story, you see, somebody who was -- say you'll die in two years, now is saving lives. But let me put it in her words: "The doctor gave me two years to live, and now it's been 13. So I'm supposed to be here. I am supposed to be doing something with this."

And what she's doing with this, she's using her intellect and her love to help somebody else realize that they are supposed to be here. She's doing something beautiful, and she has shown that with hope, life can triumph. And that sustains us. That sustains us in doing our duty here in

America and across the world, because we want hope to triumph for all.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and visit with you today. Thank you for your love and compassion. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you very much.

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Fact Sheet: President Bush's New Support for People with HIV/AIDS

(Domestic, international programs included in initiatives)

President Bush announced June 23 several new efforts to improve care for persons living with HIV/AIDS both in the United States and elsewhere in the world.

He also named Vietnam as the 15th country that will be included in the emergency plan for AIDS relief passed by the Congress last year. Fourteen other nations in Africa and the Caribbean were designated previously as recipients of U.S. special assistance. The United States has committed to a five-year, \$15 billion effort to turn the global tide against the disease.

Following is the text of the White House fact sheet:

Extending and Improving the Lives of Those Living with HIV/AIDS

Today's Presidential Action

President Bush visited Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to discuss the need for providing treatment to Americans living with HIV/AIDS, and to highlight the work of faith-based and community organizations as they seek to treat and care for Americans living with HIV/AIDS.

Today, the President announced:

-- Immediate availability of \$20 million in new funding to deliver life-saving drugs to the men and women in the United States living with HIV/AIDS who are waiting today for HIV-related medication;

-- Support for the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act based upon the principles of focusing Federal resources on life-extending care; ensuring flexibility to target resources to address areas of greatest need; and ensuring results;

-- Second distribution of available funding for the focus countries of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief -- \$500 million -- will soon be on its way to organizations working in the field to provide antiretroviral therapy, promote prevention, care for orphans, and build the health system capacity in Africa and the Caribbean; and

-- Vietnam as the 15th focus country in the Emergency Plan.

The President's continued commitment to combating HIV/AIDS domestically is reinforced in his budget for FY 2005 with \$17.1 billion in funding for domestic AIDS research, care, prevention, and treatment -- an increase of 27% since 2001. The President has increased funding for Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria from \$840 million in FY 2001 to a request of \$2.8 billion in FY 2005 -- which more than triples the investment since 2001.

Background on Today's Presidential Action

Care and Treatment. Too many Americans with HIV/AIDS go without life-saving drugs. For those States that have reported patients waiting today for HIV-related medication through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, the President has committed \$20 million in new funding effective immediately to deliver lifesaving medications to men and women living with HIV/AIDS. The President supports the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization and seeks to strengthen the program using the following principles as guidelines:

-- Focus Federal resources on life-extending care, such as anti-retroviral drugs, doctor visits, and lab tests.

-- Provide greater flexibility to better target Ryan White CARE Act resources to address areas of greatest need.

-- Encourage the participation of any provider, including faith-based and community organizations that show results, recognizing the need for State and local planning, and ensuring accountability by measuring progress.

Prevention and Research. HIV/AIDS remains a serious public health threat. The President has supported increases in other programs helping Americans afflicted with HIV/AIDS: substance abuse treatment, which helps to prevent transmission through intravenous drug use, and Community Health Centers, which in low-income or rural areas, may provide the only source of treatment and support to HIV-infected individuals. The President continues to support efforts to promote prevention while encouraging research to combat this deadly disease. Efforts include:

-- **Emphasizing Abstinence:** Abstinence is the only sure way to prevent sexual transmission of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In the President's 2004 State of the Union Address, he called for a new emphasis on abstinence-only education, and doubling the funding for abstinence-only programs.

-- **Encouraging Testing:** Approximately 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV/AIDS each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one-quarter of those infected with HIV do not know that they are infected, and that these individuals cause up to two-thirds of new infections. The FDA has facilitated the effort of rapid HIV tests by approving a quicker and less invasive saliva test for HIV.

-- **Global Vaccine Enterprise:** Research is key to removing the devastation caused by the disease. At the G-8 Summit in early June 2004, the President announced a global vaccine enterprise to bring a strategic vision to global AIDS vaccine efforts.

-- **Easy-to-Use AIDS Medications:** The Food and Drug Administration has announced a plan to rapidly approve low-cost easy-to-use AIDS medications. The FDA will make these low-cost drugs available for purchase under the Emergency Plan and through other providers.

-- **Lifting Barriers to AIDS Vaccine Development:** Today, the President continued to call on Congress to lift barriers to AIDS vaccine development in the United States by providing liability protection to private vaccine developers, and others involved in researching cures to disease.

Confronting the International HIV/AIDS Pandemic

The President's FY 2005 budget requests \$2.8 billion for fighting AIDS globally, which more than triples the investment since 2001. In his 2003 State of the Union Address, President Bush announced the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to turn the tide in the global effort to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has killed at least 20 million of the more than 60 million people it has infected thus far, leaving 14 million orphans worldwide. Today, on the continent of Africa, nearly 30 million people have the AIDS virus -- including three million children under the age of 15.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is helping some of the most affected countries in Africa and the Caribbean to extend and save lives afflicted by HIV/AIDS. The initiative will be used to provide antiretroviral drugs for 2 million HIV-infected people; prevent 7 million new infections, care for 10 million individuals and orphans

infected and affected by the disease, and build the health system capacity in Africa and the Caribbean.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

-- The First Year: During this first year, the Emergency Plan is providing care and support for approximately 1.1 million people and facilitating access to antiretroviral therapy for approximately 200,000. The Emergency Plan is using proven prevention methods with records of success, including the ABC model, bringing life-saving treatment where none previously existed which encourages testing, ensuring accountability by service providers, developing healthcare systems through the network model and fighting stigma.

-- Funding for People Most in Need: On February 23, 2004, the first \$350 million in funding for the focus countries of the Emergency Plan was made available and began reaching people in need only two weeks later. The second distribution of funding -- \$500 million -- will continue to build on prevention, treatment, and care efforts. In total, the Emergency Plan is spending \$2.4 billion on global AIDS this year.

-- 15th Country Added: Today, Vietnam has been added as the 15th focus country of the Emergency Plan. Vietnam is predicted to have an increase in HIV-infected persons from 130,000 in 2002 to one million by 2010, an eight-fold increase. Although still considered a localized epidemic, emerging trends indicate that HIV infection is spreading to the general population. Emergency Plan interventions through non-governmental organizations could prevent at least 660,000 new infections, and provide care for 65,000 people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for 13,000 HIV-infected people.

Text: White House Releases Documents on Torture in War on Terror

Bush banned torture, regardless of applicability of Geneva Conventions

The Bush administration has released hundreds of pages of documents from the White House, the Defense Department and the Justice Department detailing internal debates, discussions and decisions related to the issue of torture in the war on terror.

The administration said it released this material to refute allegations that it authorized the use of torture to extract information from prisoners taken in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In releasing the documents to the public at a Washington briefing June 22, the White House counsel, Judge Alberto Gonzales, said, "the President has not authorized, ordered or directed in any way any activity that would transgress the standards of the torture conventions or the torture statute, or other applicable laws."

The Defense Department's General Counsel William Haynes, the department's Deputy General Counsel Daniel Dell'orto, and Army Chief of Staff for Intelligence General Keith Alexander participated in the same briefing.

The lead document was a memorandum from President Bush addressed to the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, the attorney general, the chief of staff to the president, the director of central intelligence, the assistant to the president for national security affairs, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In this memorandum dated February 7, 2002, Bush said he accepted the Justice Department's conclusion that the Geneva Conventions relating to the treatment of prisoners of war do not apply to the al Qaeda terrorists captured in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The memorandum said the conventions apply to conflicts involving "High Contracting Parties," which can only be states. He said the Taliban detainees also do not qualify to be treated as prisoners of war under the conventions because they are "unlawful combatants" engaged in a conflict that is international in scope. He said common Article 3 of the conventions applies only to "armed conflict not of an international character."

Bush said he has the authority under the Constitution to suspend the Geneva Conventions as between the United States and Afghanistan, but he declined to do so "at this time."

The president stated the detainees of the Taliban and al Qaeda do not qualify for treatment as prisoners of war under the guidelines of the Geneva conventions, but the president said, "As a matter of policy, the United States Armed Forces shall continue to treat detainees humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of Geneva."

"Our values as a Nation, values that we share with many nations in the world, call for us to treat detainees humanely, including those who are not legally entitled to such treatment," Bush said in the memo.

Elaborating on the memo, Gonzales said, "the U.S. will treat people in our custody in accordance with all U.S. obligations including federal statutes, the U.S. Constitution

and our treaty obligations. The President has said we do not condone or commit torture. Anyone engaged in conduct that constitutes torture will be held accountable."

The Defense Department General Counsel Haynes said the Geneva Conventions applied to Iraq because that is "a conflict between two states that are parties to the Geneva Conventions."

"It's a traditional war, and the conventions are clear that they apply and that the treaties apply and that's the way the Defense Department has operated," Haynes said.

Haynes addressed charges that the United States is wrong to detain people in Guantanamo without providing them with lawyers, arraiging them, pressing charges and trying them for crimes.

"Our view is that that is not required in warfare. For centuries, it has been undisputed that countries at war may detain the enemy for the duration of the hostilities. That's not incarceration for committing crimes. That's protecting the country. And it is lawful, and it is consistent with our tradition and consistent with the tradition of every civilized country in the world," Haynes said.

Haynes said it was a difficult for the administration to decide to release the documents because they have revealed to the enemy how they will be treated in the event that they are captured.

"To disclose in such a public way exactly what we do, it is -- it hinders us in some way. The enemy now knows what some of the limits are," Haynes said.

The documents released June 22 can be found on the web site of the National Institute of Military Justice: <http://www.nimj.com/Home.asp>

Following is the text of Bush's February 7, 2002, memo :

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 7, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Humane Treatment of al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees

1. Our recent extensive discussions regarding the status of al Qaeda and Taliban detainees confirm that the application of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949 (Geneva) to the conflict with al Qaeda and the Taliban involves complex legal questions. By its terms, Geneva applies to conflicts involving 'High Contracting Parties,' which can only be states. Moreover, it assumes the existence of 'regular' armed forces fighting on behalf of states. However, the war against terrorism ushers in a new paradigm, one in which groups with broad, international reach commit horrific acts against innocent civilians, sometimes with the direct support of states. Our Nation recognizes that this new paradigm -- ushered in not by us, but by terrorists -- requires new thinking in the law of war, but thinking that should nevertheless be consistent with the principles of Geneva.

2. Pursuant to my authority as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive of the United States, and relying on the opinion of the Department of Justice dated January 22, 2002, and on the legal opinion rendered by the Attorney General in his letter of February 1, 2002, I hereby determine as follows:

a. I accept the legal conclusion of the Department of Justice and determine that none of the provisions of Geneva apply to our conflict with al Qaeda in Afghanistan or elsewhere throughout the world because, among other reasons, al Qaeda is not a High Contracting Party to Geneva.

b. I accept the legal conclusion of the Attorney General and the Department of justice that I have the authority under the Constitution to suspend Geneva as between the United States and Afghanistan, but I decline to exercise that authority at this time. Accordingly, I determine that the provisions of Geneva will apply to our present conflict with the Taliban. I reserve the right to exercise this authority in this or future conflicts.

c. I also accept the legal conclusion of the Department of Justice and determine that common Article 3 of Geneva does not apply to either al Qaeda or Taliban detainees, because, among other reasons, the relevant conflicts are international in scope and common Article 3 applies only to "armed conflict not of an international character."

d. Based on the facts supplied by the Department of Defense and the recommendation of the Department of Justice, I determine that the Taliban detainees are unlawful combatants and, therefore, do not qualify as prisoners of

war under Article 4 of Geneva. I note that, because Geneva does not apply to our conflict with al Qaeda, al Qaeda detainees also do not qualify as prisoners of war.

3. Of course, our values as a Nation, values that we share with many nations in the world, call for us to treat detainees humanely, including those who are not legally entitled to such treatment. Our Nation has been and will continue to be a strong supporter of Geneva and its principles. As a matter of policy, the United States Armed Forces shall continue to treat detainees humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of Geneva.

The United States will hold states, organizations, and individuals who gain control of United States personnel responsible for treating such personnel humanely and consistent with applicable law.

I hereby reaffirm the order previously issued by the Secretary of Defense to the United States Armed Forces requiring that the detainees be created humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of Geneva.

I hereby direct the Secretary of State to communicate my determinations in an appropriate manner to our allies, and other countries and international organizations cooperating in the war against terrorism of global reach.

*EPF302 06/23/2004

White House Report, June 23: Iraq, North Korea

(Bush phone call to Iraq's Prime Minister, U.S. proposed aid in exchange for North Korea nuclear disarmament)

PRESIDENT BUSH REITERATES COMMITMENT TO IRAQ

President Bush called Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to talk about the "progress being made to build a free and peaceful Iraq" and to reiterate his "commitment to help the Iraqi people," White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan told reporters June 23.

Bush's phone call had been scheduled to take place before reports circulated of an assassination threat against Allawai, McClellan told reporters.

According to news reports, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a high-ranking al Qaeda operative in Iraq, allegedly made the

threats against Allawai in an audiotape posted June 22 on an Internet web site.

McClellan said that Allawai is a "very strong and capable leader" who understands the importance of confronting security threats in Iraq.

"We will be there after the transfer of sovereignty to help the Iraqi people address these security threats," he said.

U.S. PROPOSES AID IN EXCHANGE FOR N. KOREA NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

U.S. delegates at multilateral talks in Beijing presented a "practical series of steps to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program," McClellan said.

According to reports, U.S. negotiators offered the proposal to North Korea June 23 as the third round of multilateral negotiations began.

Under the proposal, the United States and the other four nations participating in the talks (South Korea, China, Japan and Russia) would give North Korea energy aid and a security guarantee in exchange for ending its nuclear program, said the spokesman.

The six-party nuclear talks began in 2003 when North Korea expelled international monitors and lifted its freeze on nuclear weapons production.

"First you would have to have North Korea commit to the dismantlement of its nuclear program," McClellan said, "Then the nations could begin to agree to a detailed implementation plan of -- disablement, dismantlement, [and] elimination of all nuclear-related facilities and materials, centrifuge and other nuclear parts, fissile material and fuel rods, and a long-term monitoring program."

The spokesman noted that, if North Korea agrees to the proposal, the U.S. will take steps to ease North Korea's political and economic isolation. However, any lasting assistance to North Korea would be contingent on the verifiable dismantling of their nuclear program.

"A good faith action on North Korea's part will be met with a good-faith response by the other parties," McClellan said.

When asked about a timeline for North Korea's response, the spokesman responded, "we don't expect an immediate response."

"All parties are going to have go and look at these ideas and take them back to their capitals and discuss them. And we will see what their response is," McClellan said.

The third round of six-party talks is expected to continue in Beijing through June 25.

*EPF303 06/23/2004

Transcript: Secretary Powell, Ambassador Negroponte Speak Hopefully of Iraq's Future

(Negroponte sworn in as Ambassador to Iraq)

Secretary of State Colin Powell highlighted the importance of the upcoming transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi interim government at the June 23 swearing-in of John Negroponte as the new U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

"America made a promise, and America is keeping its promise. We're returning full sovereignty over Iraq to the Iraqi people," Powell said.

"Iraqis themselves will now take over direct responsibility for their own future," he said. "It's up to the Iraqis to decide on their constitution and their election law. It's now up to Iraqis to do business with the rest of the world and to conduct relations with other states. It's up to Iraqis to determine the use of their natural resources. It's up to Iraqis to deal with the criminals of the previous regime. And it's up to Iraqis to decide what support they want from us."

Powell spoke of the change that will take place in the relationship between the United States and Iraqi authorities when the Coalition Provisional Authority is dissolved and the U.S. representation in Iraq devolves to its new Baghdad embassy.

He affirmed, however, that the United States would remain committed to helping Iraq in every way possible.

"By sending one of our most accomplished, skilled and effective diplomats to Iraq, we're telling the world that there's nothing we hope for more than an Iraq that is at peace, an Iraq that is prosperous, and an Iraq that can reclaim its seat of honor among the nations of the world," he said.

In accepting the position, Negroponte reflected upon his most recent work as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. In particular, he spoke of the satisfaction he felt at the recent passage of Security Council Resolution 1546.

Negroponte said the resolution "paves the way for the restoration of Iraq's sovereignty and advances us closer to the day when it will be governed by elected representatives who will build the democratic, economic and social institutions the Iraqi people deserve."

He added, "When all is said and done, the freedom, security and prosperity of the Iraqi people matter to us, all of us in the community of nations. And we all must give that country our full support."

Following is the transcript of remarks by Powell and Negroponte at the swearing-in ceremony:

MR. ENSENAT: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, my name is Donald Ensenat. I am the Chief of Protocol and it's my pleasure to welcome you to the beautiful Benjamin Franklin Diplomatic Reception Room where we have gathered for the swearing-in of John D. Negroponte to be the United States Ambassador to Iraq.

We are privileged to have the Honorable Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, with us this afternoon who will officiate at the ceremony and will administer the Oath of Office. I am also pleased to introduce the members of John's family: his wife, Diana, who is on the stage with us; his children, Marina, Alejandra, John, George and Sophia.

We are also privileged to have a number of other distinguished guests joining us this afternoon. Among them I would like to welcome, if I could, the Honorable Rend Al-Rahim, the Iraqi Ambassador -- Iraqi representative, excuse me; Mrs. Alma Powell is with the family; the Ambassador of China, the Ambassador of Romania, the Ambassador of Bulgaria, the Ambassador of Greece, the Ambassador of France, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom and Lady Manning; Congressman Amo Houghton of New York, Congressman Peter Goss of Florida, Congressman Donald Payne of New Jersey, the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor, and the Honorable Paul Wolfowitz, the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to all of our guests.

Our ceremony will begin with remarks by the Secretary of State; thereafter, there will be the administration of the Oath of Office to Ambassador Negroponte, after which and the Ambassador will make some remarks and will conclude with the signing of his appointment papers, and following that we will have a receiving line in the front where you can congratulate the Ambassador.

So it's my pleasure at this point to introduce the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY POWELL: Good morning everyone and welcome to the Benjamin Franklin Room. It is a special privilege for me to have the opportunity to preside at the ceremony and to share in this moment with my dear friend, John Negroponte, and Diana and their family. And we do it here in this beautiful room because it is the most prestigious place we have in this building. We do all of our major events here. It is a room of many emotions. It's a room where much pride and gratitude over the years have been unleashed, recognizing the achievements of so many worthy people. And that's because, among its many functions, we use this room to swear-in the President's envoys to nations around the world, as we are getting ready to do with John Negroponte.

Today, however, in this room there is another emotion that comes upon us, and that is the feeling of hope. By sending one of our most accomplished, skilled and effective diplomats to Iraq, we are telling the world that there is nothing we hope for more than an Iraq that is at peace, an Iraq that is prosperous and an Iraq that can reclaim its seat of honor among the nations of the world.

We are confident that our hopes will become realities because Iraq's new beginning goes forth from the foundation of an illustrious past. In Iraq the alphabet was created and the first code of law was written. In Iraq a human civilization, organized in the rhythms of cooperation, first used the gift of a river to water a fruitful land. In the Baghdad of Haroun al-Rashid there arose perhaps the most enlightened and tolerant civic culture the world had ever seen before relatively recent times.

And if I might now just take a moment to talk directly to the Iraqis who are here and those who may be watching via television, you have other decisive assets that are there for you as you embark on your new future. You are a literate, hardworking and diversely skilled people. You have superb educators, scientists, scholars, artists, farmers and builders. You draw strength from your religious beliefs. We also hope that you'll find strength in the diversity of your beliefs and in the kaleidoscope of your talents.

You, the Iraqi people, have suffered under the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. Your shared experience has taught you the importance of securing for yourself responsible and legitimate government that will now serve the people and not the rulers.

You face many challenges, but we're confident that you will meet them all in the days and months ahead. No one will

stop you because Iraq's future is now, once again, in the hands of Iraqis, with all of your talents and with all of your abilities.

America made a promise and America is keeping its promise: We're returning full sovereignty over Iraq to the Iraqi people.

Ambassador Jerry Bremer will soon turn over his responsibilities to the Iraqi interim government and will return home for a well-deserved rest after doing a brilliant job. We thank him for helping to build a solid foundation for the free Iraqi government that is to come and we thank all those who worked with Ambassador Bremer under very, very difficult circumstances.

John Negroponte is going to Baghdad as the President's ambassador, as the American people's ambassador. He's going to lead a national conversation between the American people and the Iraqi people. He will listen as well as speak. As President Ghazi al-Yawar, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and the other high officials and ministers of the Iraqi interim government take charge, they will have a friend and a partner in John Negroponte.

We're impressed, very impressed, by these new leaders. We are impressed by the strength of character they have shown so far. We are impressed by their devotion to duty, their courage and their steady leadership during this transition period. And we're going to help them and their colleagues in every way that we can, and especially help them from our embassy in Baghdad.

We will be there with our coalition forces to provide necessary security and to provide technical assistance of so many different sorts, and we'll do that until Iraqis can assume all of those responsibilities for themselves. The United States won't be alone in the months ahead any more than we've been alone in the past months. Dozens of nations have contributed to and sacrificed for the sake of a new and free Iraq. And those contributions will continue.

I know that the Iraqi people will now welcome new partners, just as they know they can continue to count on the partners of the last year.

And, of course, we all welcome an enhanced role of the United Nations. It's clear that the international community has now gathered its strength to help the Iraqi nation. We see that commitment in the recent 15-0 vote in the United Nations Security Council on Resolution 1546. We see it, too, in the G-8's endorsement of the transition framework at Sea Island, Georgia, earlier this month.

President Bush's five-step strategy therefore proceeds full ahead with the backing of the international community as a whole. Step one is about to happen, and that is the transfer of authority from the CPA to the Iraqi government, the unequivocal end of the occupation, and that's just one week away.

The next step is the establishment of security and partnership between the coalition and the Iraqi government, the role of a multinational force working with Iraqi security forces, which are being built up rapidly. Iraqi authorities have made clear that they want coalition forces to help ensure the basic security that Iraqis need until they can do the job themselves, and we will be there for that.

Coalition forces will be there consistent with the exercise of full authority by the Iraqi government and with the consent of the Iraqi government. We're making steady progress in this handover of security responsibilities. We are building up Iraqi forces. And we thank, above all, the extraordinary courage and dedication of coalition military forces, both Iraqis and the soldiers of 32 other countries. We will always have in our mind and in our hearts the supreme sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in the cause of freedom.

The third step is the continued building of the new infrastructure of Iraq for economic prosperity. We have pledged \$21 billion for Iraqi reconstruction over the next few years, and other nations have come forward and pledged an additional \$13.5 billion. As the security environment improves, the impact of this worldwide generosity, through the hard work of the Iraqi people, will be seen and will be multiplied many times over.

Step four is to widen still further international support for Iraq's transition, from despotism to democracy. Resolution 1546 and the G-8 endorsement are major steps on that path, but many talented and generous nations can still do more and we will be encouraging them to do more.

And then the final step, step five of the President's vision, is to bring Iraq's progress together to support a political process that leads to fully democratic national elections under a new constitution by the end of next year. The President's plan is on track.

So our mission in Iraq doesn't end next week. There's much left to do. But Iraqis themselves will now take over direct responsibility for their own future. It's up to the Iraqis to decide on their constitution and their election law. It's now up to Iraqis to do business with the rest of the world and to conduct relations with other states. It's up to Iraqis to determine the use of their natural resources. It's up to

Iraqis to deal with the criminals of the previous regime. And it's up to Iraqis to decide what support they want from us.

I'm confident that we'll be remaining in the closest of partnerships with Iraqi authorities in the months ahead. We may not agree on everything; they are now sovereign. But that's normal. We have never sought an Iraq that was our client or dependency; quite the contrary. Ambassador Negroponte will guide our cooperation and will smooth out any differences that may arise, as all of the President's envoys do wherever they serve around the world.

But John Negroponte isn't just any Presidential envoy. Most ambassadors that we swear-in here are sworn in, perhaps, for the first time. On some rare occasions, it's a second time or a third time. This is John's fifth time to be sworn in as a Chief of Mission.

John has served every President since Dwight Eisenhower and he's been successful at every job he's ever held. It was my great privilege, 17 years ago when I was National Security Advisor, suddenly elevated to that position from being the Deputy, and in desperate need of a Deputy for myself, that I reached out throughout the Foreign Service looking for somebody who I knew would be absolutely splendid in the job but somebody who I would form a relationship with that would allow us to do the job for President Reagan and who I hoped would become a lifelong friend, somebody whose loyalty was unquestioned and somebody whose character was unquestioned, but more than that, somebody who was a selfless servant in the cause of democracy and the cause of the American people. I found all of that in John Negroponte.

John was indispensable to me during the almost two years that we worked together in the latter period of the Reagan Administration, helping President Reagan to bring into being strategies that changed the world. We heard so much about it during the funeral of President Reagan just a little while ago. John was a key player in those days, and I will never forget what he did for me during those days.

He's done this in every post that he served in over a long and distinguished career: in Hong Kong, in Vietnam, in Ecuador, as Ambassador to Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines, and most recently, as our Permanent Representative to the United Nations where he has done an absolutely outstanding and splendid job leading a great team.

John, we save the most challenging jobs for you. And it's safe to say that Baghdad is no exception to that rule. The President has chosen you for one of the toughest and most

critical positions in all of government. You are headed to an American embassy that is new, our mission having been closed for the past 13 years; and, yet, that embassy is bound to be one of the largest, most complex and most important in the world. But I am absolutely sure of your ability to handle it. You are a pillar of competence and courage. The President has every confidence, as do we all, that you will meet every challenge that comes your way. And very soon, too, the Iraqi people will get to know you as we know you and they will learn what a great friend and what a great partner they have in you. You will have excellent support in your new posting. As you know, we have gotten about seven volunteers for every opening in the new embassy in Baghdad.

Your Deputy Chief of Mission will be Jim Jeffrey who is already there setting things up, who was our Ambassador to Albania and one of our many ambassadors who was willing to give up what they were doing and come help us, just as Ambassador Ricciardone who has been here for the last six or seven months from the Philippines has done. We are very pleased to have Ambassador Jeffrey's wife and son with us here today. This whole building, this whole government stands behind you, John.

And above all, you will have the most important asset of all: your family, the loving support of your wife Diana and your five wonderful children, all of whom are here with us today. Some of them were only like this when I first met them so many years ago: Marina, Alejandra, John, George and Sophia. They are all State Department veterans. They have all served with their mom and dad around the world and we're so proud to have them.

A special word to Diana, though. When this came along, and the President decided on John, after calling John, I knew there was one other call I had to make. It turned out to be an easy call because John and Diana had already been thinking about it before they were called. They saw the need that was emerging. They knew that the President would be reaching out to someone and they had already talked about it. And in the spirit of the Foreign Service, in the spirit of selfless service to nation, they had already decided that if the call came to them, they'd be ready. And so when I called, Diana, she and the family was ready. And for that, you will all have forever our undying gratitude.

So John, Diana, members of the family, friends all who are here, we thank you, once again, John and Diana, for your willingness to serve your nation in this way. And you go to Baghdad with the blessings of all of us here and grateful thanks of the President, me, all of your colleagues, but above all, with the thanks of the American people. And I

know and we will see very soon that you are arriving with the thanks of the Iraqi people as well.

And now, my dear friend, if you are ready, I'm ready to swear you in.

(Ambassador Negroponte is sworn in by Secretary Powell.)

SECRETARY POWELL: Congratulations.

AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE: Thank you. Mr. Secretary, Ms. Rice, Minister Rend al-Rahim, other colleagues in the Diplomatic Corps who have already been recognized by Secretary Powell, distinguished guests and friends, I guess I would like, first of all, just to acknowledge the presence of one other person who is here today and with whom I look forward to working extremely closely in the months ahead, and that is General George Casey who has just relinquished his or is about to relinquish his duties as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army to come out to be the Commander in Iraq. So I just wanted everybody to know that George is here as well.

Distinguished guests and friends, this ceremony is a special occasion for me and for my family. So before I say another word, I want to thank my wife, Diana, and our five children. I could not have accepted this assignment without their love, their encouragement and their support. In any Foreign Service family, as so many of you know, you are in it together through thick and thin. That is always how it has been for us and how it remains. I will go to Baghdad by myself, but I will not go alone.

Mr. Secretary, I also want to thank you for your unstinting support over the years. I was proud to serve as your Deputy on the National Security Council under President Reagan and I am proud to serve you here at the Department of State under President Bush. And I am honored by the confidence that the President and you have shown in my abilities by selecting me to serve as the first United States Ambassador to a free Iraq. The institution you lead has been my professional home since 1960 when I began my career as a Vice Consul in Hong Kong. Along the way I have had the privilege of working with the finest professionals imaginable, not only in the Department but throughout the Executive Branch, on Capitol Hill and in the private sector.

So many of you here today are old friends and colleagues who have been essential in helping me complete the tasks assigned to me. I know I will continue to benefit from your guidance and assistance in Iraq as well. I will need plenty of both, I am sure. As I leave my current post at the United Nations after almost three years, I do so with a sense of

gratitude and, yes, a touch of satisfaction. My time at the United Nations has been, without question, one of the high points of my career. The United States needs partners to advance our values and interests in the world, and at the United Nations we are able to forge many partnerships that represent a good return on our substantial investment of time and treasure.

I am thinking, for instance, of the 55,000 peacekeepers stationed around the world under United Nations auspices, of the critical role the United Nations plays as the first responder in times of humanitarian crisis, and, of course, of the ways in which the United Nations maximizes the efforts we and others make in combating the scourge of HIV-AIDS, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean. Time and again, the United Nations offers us leverage, operational flexibility and a means by which we can draw others towards fulfilling the aspirations of the United Nations Charter, a document in perfect harmony with the United States vision of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous world.

Since 1990, Iraq has been a major concern for the United Nations, occupying an enormous amount of the Security Council's attention. We all know the milestones along this difficult journey. Clearly, none has been more important than Security Council Resolution 1546 passed unanimously just last week. 1546 paves the way for the restoration of Iraq's sovereignty and advances us closer to the day when it will be governed by elected representatives who will build the democratic, economic and social institutions the Iraqi people deserve.

As I prepare to go to Iraq as United States Ambassador, I do so with a clear mission: to offer support and assistance to the Iraqi people and government as Iraq reasserts its full sovereignty. Three mutually reinforcing objectives underpin this goal: establishing security by helping the Iraqis defeat terrorists and criminal elements who oppose a free Iraq; promoting economic development; and supporting Iraq's democratization through elections, promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

To succeed, we must rapidly build a well-resourced multi-agency United States mission in Baghdad that works in the closest coordination with the multi-national force, international organizations, the embassies of coalition countries, the private sector and NGO community and, above all, the sovereign, democratic people of Iraq. Everyone from the least to the greatest must do his or her part. This is a project that will take many months and many years, but time will be our friend as we stay the course.

In closing, I would like to salute all those who have sacrificed their lives or put themselves at enormous risk to advance the cause of liberty in Iraq. For his valor and leadership in confronting an incredibly arduous challenge, Ambassador Bremer has my admiration and gratitude.

I would also like to honor our fallen colleagues from the United Nations, notably Sergio Vieira de Mello and to thank United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and his Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi for guiding the political process that has led to the interim Iraqi administration. I look forward to continued collaboration with UN colleagues in the months ahead.

When all is said and done, the freedom, security and prosperity of the Iraqi people matter to us, all of us in the community of nations, and we all must give that country our full support. Thank you very much.

MR. ENSENAT: This concludes our ceremony. We will now form a receiving line where you can congratulate the new Ambassador and his family. I invite the Iraqi representative to be the first among us to do so.

*EPF310 06/23/2004

Chief U.S. Delegate Nominee Danforth Would Bring Years of Experience to U.N. Post

(Sudan envoy nominated as U.S. ambassador to U.N.)

By Judy Aita, Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- John C. Danforth, President Bush's nominee to be the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, would bring a wide variety of experience in government, law, religion, and public service to the job of representing the United States at the world organization.

John Claggett Danforth, 68, has had a distinguished public service career, serving as the attorney general of Missouri and then as a U.S. senator between 1969 and 1995. He is a partner in a St. Louis-Washington, D.C., law firm and President Bush's special envoy to Sudan. An ordained Episcopal minister, Danforth officiated at the recent funeral of the late President Ronald Reagan.

As senator, Danforth served on the Finance Committee; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and the Select Committee on Intelligence. During his senate career, he worked to expand U.S. exports and to remove foreign trade barriers to U.S. goods and services, was a sponsor of many aviation laws, and sponsored the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

In 1999 then-Attorney General Janet Reno appointed Danforth as a special counsel to investigate the 1993 deaths of 80 Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

The current U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte, called Danforth "a magnificent choice" for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Negroponte is leaving the U.N. post to head the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad after the turnover of sovereignty from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to the Interim Government of Iraq. He said that Danforth "is just an extraordinarily respected American. He has wonderful government experience, including three terms as a senator. He's worked on the peace process in Sudan, so he's very familiar with some of the recent complex emergencies that the United Nations has been dealing with."

"I don't think the president could have made a better choice," Negroponte said.

Danforth will be arriving in New York during a period of intense interchange between the United States and the United Nations. The U.N. role in Iraq will be increasing and the organization continues to play a role in other major issues around the world that are also important to the United States, including the Middle East, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, counterterrorism, HIV/AIDS, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights, drugs and trafficking in persons.

The United Nations plays a vital role in U.S. foreign policy issues, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Kim R. Holmes has said. "Ever since the president went to the General Assembly (in 2002) and challenged the United Nations on Iraq and, generally, to live up to its founding principles, we have seen the United Nations at the center of almost every major U.S. foreign policy issue."

At his recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing, Danforth said that "the breadth and scope of the activities of the United Nations concern U.S. interests and activities around the globe and affect the daily lives of average U.S. citizens. The U.S. vision of global stability, democracy for more and more people who long for freedom and expanding prosperity guide the work of the United States Mission to the United Nations."

One of his highest priorities as ambassador will be to work for a resolution of the situation in Darfur, Sudan, Danforth said.

"A comprehensive peace accord cannot be implemented if the situation in Darfur is not resolved," Danforth said. "The United States has led the international community in reacting to the violence and atrocities taking place in Darfur. We have made it clear that we hold the Sudanese Government responsible for its support of the Arab 'jingaweit' militia and its systematic targeting of African ethnic groups."

On counter-terrorism, the U.N. with its 191 member countries "has the stature and global reach to advance the fight against terrorism in important ways," Danforth told the committee.

"The U.N. can -- and must -- keep the world community focused and energized for the long battle ahead. The U.N. must continue to make clear to the world that acts of international terrorism simply cannot be justified or tolerated," he said. "Our challenge is to ensure that counter-terrorism remains at the top tier of the U.N.'s agenda, and that all member states are engaged in the fight."

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has appointed a high-level independent panel to investigate allegations of corruption and bribery during the 10 years the United Nations administered the Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq. The program used the proceeds from Iraqi oil sales to provide humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians. The panel is headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker.

Danforth said the United States "strongly supports the ongoing investigations" and will continue to cooperate with the investigators.

"We will do all we can to push for a full and effective accounting," he said. "We will continue to work with Mr. Volcker and with Congress to gain the fullest possible access to the records necessary for the investigation."

Danforth also told the Senate that he "strongly supports U.N. peacekeeping."

"The peacekeeping activities of the United Nations further the goals of the U.N. Charter and, more importantly, further the national interests of the United States," he said. "U.N. peacekeeping operations promote regional stability, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and prevent ethnic cleansing."

The United States is the largest single contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations with the U.S. contribution in 2004 reaching \$795 million. Costs are expected to rise in 2005 because new operations will reach full strength in such

places as Liberia and Haiti, and other operations are being considered for Burundi and the Sudan.

"I consider the money well spent," Danforth said. "Were it not for U.N. peacekeeping, there would be even more numerous calls for the use of U.S. troops abroad to help keep the peace at a time when the demands on our troops are already high."

Danforth is also chairman emeritus of the World Agricultural Forum, which is an independent, not-for-profit organization that brings together global leaders and others to advance solutions to the critical issues facing the agricultural community. He has received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Outstanding Public Service, the Presidential World Without Hunger Award, and the 2003 Award for Excellence of Diplomacy from the American Academy of Diplomacy in recognition of his achievements as special envoy to the Sudan.

He received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from Yale University. He holds a bachelor of divinity degree from Yale Divinity School.

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Transcript: Human Trafficking Needs Multi-pronged Opposition, State's Harrison Says

(Prevention of trade, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims needed)

Fighting the scourge of human trafficking requires a "multi-pronged approach," according to Patricia de Stacy Harrison, the acting under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs.

Prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration into society for victims are all necessary to deal with the complex problem of the "new slavery," she said at a conference held in Tokyo that discussed strategies for combating human trafficking in Asia.

In her keynote address delivered June 23 at Tokyo's United Nations University, Harrison said prevention must include anti-trafficking education campaigns, sex tourism prevention programs and economic alternatives for at-risk groups.

Rehabilitation should include emergency assistance and vocational training for foreign trafficking victims; and reintegration should include voluntary repatriation

assistance for victims and border shelters in key areas, she explained.

"Trafficking in persons," Harrison said, "is truly a form of personal terrorism." Vulnerable people -- predominantly women and children -- are "lured and then trapped, their lives taken away," she said, while the victimizers, in many cases, are "free to live in society, to reap economic benefits from the human misery they have inflicted."

Fighting against human trafficking, Harrison said, is fighting for human dignity, human rights, rule of law and all the basic tenets of a civil society. "If we believe in these values, we must be against trafficking in a vigorous and a measurable way," she said.

Legal reform is also critical in this venture, Harrison said. The United States is working "to educate foreign police on the new Protect Act, create law enforcement units to rescue women and children, train judges and prosecutors and provide technical assistance to help countries draft or amend their laws on trafficking and sex tourism."

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 is the cornerstone of American anti-trafficking efforts. "This law declares trafficking a crime, and it requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and work with other nations to address the problem globally," Harrison explained. She said an interagency task force to oversee U.S. anti-trafficking efforts has enjoyed favorable results -- criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in just the last three years.

The Protect Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 2003 strengthens existing laws. "Under the Protect Act, U.S. law enforcement officials may prosecute American citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad and sexually abuse children. The law criminalizes actions to arrange or facilitate the travel of so-called child sex tourists," Harrison said.

The Bush administration, Harrison said, is working around the world to stop trafficking directly, and, through development assistance, "to improve economic and social conditions so that potential victims will see opportunity and hope in their future and not be swayed by the siren song of the traffickers."

The two-day conference, "Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia," was hosted by the U.S. embassy in Japan, the International Labour Organization's Tokyo office, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

The 2004 edition of the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report has put Japan on a "watch list" of countries that may slide into the category of the most poorly performing countries for dealing with trafficking issues. According to the report, "Japan's trafficking problem is large and Japanese organized crime groups (yakuza) that operate internationally are involved. The Japanese government must begin to fully employ its resources to address this serious human rights crime within its borders."

Following is the transcript of Harrison's remarks:

Good morning. Thank you Ms. Horiuchi, and good morning Mr. Ambassador, Mrs. Baker, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First let me just say, Mrs. Moriyama (Mayumi Moriyama, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Justice), that was really wonderful, and your leadership on behalf of victims is really extraordinary.

I am so pleased to be here among so many distinguished guests - not only from Japan and the Asian region, but globally - as we all work together to end the scourge of human trafficking. Trafficking in persons is truly a form of personal terrorism. Vulnerable people - women and children - lured and then trapped, their lives taken away, and to complete the cycle of injustice, the victimizers, in many cases, free to live in society, to reap economic benefits from the human misery they have inflicted.

As each of us works to end the scourge of trafficking, we are really working for, as President Bush has said, the non-negotiable demands of human dignity - human rights, rule of law, all the basic tenets of a civil society. If we believe in these values, we must be against trafficking in a vigorous and a measurable way.

If you were to ask almost anyone, "Are you for or against slavery?" the person would reply "Against, of course," because slavery is a word that everyone understands. But very few people really know - outside of this room - what trafficking means. They associate the word entirely with the selling and buying of illegal drugs, and it is true that human trafficking is linked to international crime syndicates involved in drugs and terrorism, and guns and false documents and the spread of HIV/AIDS. But so few people understand that this word "trafficking" really means selling into slavery women, men and children - a life of prostitution, degradation, violence and shame.

As Ambassador Baker said, President Bush was the first leader to raise the issue of trafficking at the General Assembly, and ending the scourge of slavery - trafficking -

is a priority for him. That's why he has committed an additional \$50 million more funding, on top of the \$70 million allocated this past year. The President's determination is reflected in the remarks that he made to the General Assembly, and he said, "There is a special evil in the abuse and the exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims see little of life ... an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished, and governments that tolerate this trade are really tolerating a form of slavery."

Secretary of State Colin Powell used the word "slavery" as well, when he said, "This form of modern slavery plagues every single country in the world including the United States." Last Monday, the Secretary remarked, "We fight trafficking in persons not just for the sake of victims and potential victims of these crimes; we do it for ourselves, because we can't fully embrace our own dignity as human beings unless we champion the dignity of others." That is basically what Mrs. Horiuchi and everyone gathered here is doing - championing the dignity of others.

I know through this important conference, you're going to increase the numbers of people of good will who will be inspired to help those who are being victimized now. We know that heroes come from every level of society. The Colombian Ambassador to Japan is certainly a hero for his commitment to this issue, and each of you here today - you can be the heroes that inspire others. My personal hero is Nancy Kassebaum Baker, because her leadership on behalf of the dignity of others, through a lifetime of work just speaks volumes.

Let me quickly talk about what the United States is doing to eliminate trafficking in persons. As you know, the U.S. is not immune from the human trafficking problem, and we are working to accelerate anti-trafficking measures at home. In 2000, we passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which is the cornerstone of our anti-trafficking efforts. This law declares trafficking a crime, and it requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and work with other nations to address the problem globally. President Bush has established the President's interagency task force to oversee U.S. anti-trafficking efforts. The task force is chaired by Secretary of State Colin Powell, and its directives are carried out by senior-level government officials from 10 federal agencies and departments. As a result, I'm happy to say that criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in just the last three years.

The United States advocates a multi-pronged approach. It isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. As we just heard, this is a complex problem. This multi-pronged approach includes

prevention, for one. So that means anti-trafficking education campaigns, sex tourism prevention programs and economic alternatives for at-risk groups. Rehabilitation - that provides emergency assistance and vocational training for foreign traffic victims, and it builds the capacity for NGOs focused on trafficking. And then reintegration - that includes voluntary repatriation assistance for victims and border shelters in key areas. And finally, legal reform. We are working to educate foreign police on the new Protect Act, create law enforcement units to rescue women and children, train judges and prosecutors and provide technical assistance to help countries draft or amend their laws on trafficking and sex tourism.

The U.S. Congress passed the Protect Act last year, which strengthens existing laws. Under the Protect Act, U.S. law enforcement officials may prosecute American citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad and sexually abuse children. The law criminalizes actions to arrange or facilitate the travel of so-called child sex tourists. Its directives are carried out through the President's task force. We are of course working around the world to stop trafficking directly, and most importantly, through development assistance, we are working to improve economic and social conditions so that potential victims will see opportunity and hope in their future and not be swayed by the siren song of the traffickers.

As a result of these efforts, we've begun to see real success in combating trafficking, both in the U.S. and worldwide. And I want to underscore that in our critical need to stop the traffickers, we must continue to help the victims once they are rescued. In the United States, victims of trafficking are eligible for temporary housing, legal assistance, educational opportunities, mental health counseling, foster care and other benefits, and we do work in partnership with NGOs to help us communicate what the benefits are and to deliver them to the victims.

We have an anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, letting victims know that if they do move forward - and moving forward sometimes takes the most courageous step for these people, to move forward to get help - that they will be protected. We also ask for help from those who may know of victims and can work with us to free them. We sponsor a hotline advising callers what resources are available to them, and we've also set up a new Web site for victim assistance.

My own bureau, Educational and Cultural Affairs, works to fight trafficking through educational exchange programs. We bring leading anti-trafficking experts to the United States, where they and their U.S. counterparts can focus on what is working, what needs to be done, and what

resources are required. Alumni of these programs represent a positive force in every country on behalf of victims and potential victims. My bureau has also supported the travel of trafficking victims to conferences such as the one in Bali, and the important thing is that when victims of trafficking go to these conferences it provides an opportunity for the public to hear from them directly.

I had an opportunity to meet with some young people who had received both rescue and shelter from volunteers from the private sector. And I have to tell you: Once you meet a victim, you will not sleep at night until you do everything you can to end this terrible scourge.

In 2003, an Asia-only group participated in an ECA (the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) program that introduced them to policies and strategies to prevent and actively combat trafficking in persons. The program demonstrated how from a wide range of professions. We can effectively maximize what we are invested in doing, because it hits all levels of society. By bringing people from different sectors together, we have a much wider net.

We are supporting projects to provide journalists in Eastern Europe with the tools they need to increase public awareness and to ensure responsible coverage of the issue. We've provided support for four fellows to study anti-trafficking while participating in the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program. We support NGOs that build awareness through communications programs. We want to reach potential victims where they receive information - at shelters, but beyond shelters, at bus stops, in restaurants - so that young people can be aware before they succumb.

I'm extremely pleased to learn that some of the alumni of these programs are here today. You were selected for these programs because of your experience and dedication, and you will be part of a sustainable, multiplier effect increasing the numbers of people, who as I said can then form a circle of prevention surrounding those who would fall prey to traffickers. And of course, our Embassy here in Tokyo and American embassies overseas support anti-trafficking efforts by organizing workshops and conferences, giving grants to local NGOs, and providing both public and private statements of support for anti-trafficking activities. Many of our participants today from other parts of Asia were selected to attend this conference by our U.S. Embassy colleagues in those countries. All of you have a strong ally in the war against trafficking, and that ally is the American Ambassador, and his or her staff in your home country. On behalf of those who are helpless, your dedication, your commitment is so important.

I want to thank and commend the co-sponsors of this very important conference: the Tokyo branch of the International Labour Organization and Vital Voices, and each one of you for being here today. As President Bush said, "We must show new energy in fighting back an old evil. Nearly two centuries after the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and more than a century after slavery was officially ended in its last stronghold, the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our times."

Thank you so very much.

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Text: State Department Stops U.S. Issue of Certain Visas

(Visa holders must seek renewal abroad)

The U.S. State Department announced June 23 that it plans to stop issuing certain categories of visas in the United States on July 16.

A law passed in 2002 requires visas of the future to include biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints. An explanation of the policy changes printed in the U.S. Federal Register says, "It is not feasible for the Department [of State] to collect the identifiers in the United States."

The State Department encourages holders of the affected visas (those classified in categories E, H, I, L, O and P) to apply for renewal in their home countries.

The Federal Register notice explaining the policy is available at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-14245.pdf>

Following is the text of the State Department announcement:

MEDIA NOTE

DISCONTINUATION OF DOMESTIC VISA SERVICE FOR CERTAIN NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

The State Department is discontinuing its domestic reissuance service for E, H, I, L, O, and P visas. The Department will stop accepting applications for these visa classifications on July 16, 2004. The Department will continue to process diplomatic and official visas (A, G, and NATO) in Washington and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York.

This action is being taken because Section 303 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act requires the State Department to incorporate a biometric in every U.S. visa issued after October 26, 2004. All visa-adjudicating posts abroad will have fingerprint-scanning equipment installed before the October deadline. Persons residing in the United States in one of the affected visa classes may continue to reside in the country for the period granted by Department of Homeland Security officers at ports of entry. If these persons depart the United States and require new visas to reenter, after July 16 they must seek adjudication of a new visa application at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad.

A notice announcing the termination of domestic reissuance service for these visas appears in the Federal Register of June 23, 2004, Public Notice 4747, at page 35121.

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